

The Flame

NOV 2022

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



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- Ed Flesch

The
FireSide
Dinner Theatre

“76 Trombones Led the Big Parade . . .”

The very first show I ever saw was THE MUSIC MAN starring Robert Preston. The main drape went up to reveal a painted drop with a picture of a marching band leader's hat painted on it. The orchestra started up with a rousing rendition of the show's signature song "Seventy-Six Trombones."

I was transfixed, I was transformed. It's the show that ignited my love for musical theatre. It's the show that convinced me that theatre was the only profession I ever wanted to pursue. I was seven years old.

Many decades separate me from that evening in the theatre but when I hear an orchestra play that immortal music I am once more that seven-year-old kid and I fall in love with musical theatre all over again.

THE MUSIC MAN is on my list of the three or four greatest musicals ever written. I have directed it five times and the prospect of directing it once again fills me with joy and anticipation.

THE MUSIC MAN celebrates America. Not the America of warring factions, division, vitriol, and negativity. NO. The America that THE MUSIC MAN celebrates is an America filled with people of good hearts who, by listening to a charismatic, flamboyant salesman become a community of happy, supportive, loving neighbors.

A fairy tale? Perhaps. But like all good fairy tales it speaks to our better instincts. It is a tale filled with laughter, love, and great, great music. As the song says, "There was love all around but I never heard it singing, 'til there was you."

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THE MUSIC MAN ... CONTINUED!

When you see our production of THE MUSIC MAN, you'll hear that singing and it will transform you as it did that small boy in a darkened theatre so many years ago.

I'll be going to New York in a few weeks to personally select a wonderful cast to portray Meredith Willson's fabulously colorful characters. They'll bring them all to life for you right here on The Fireside stage. Make your plans to join us today!

Ed Flavel



Scenes from our
2006 production of
THE MUSIC MAN.



Thanks to Kim Becker for building a new generation of theatre-goers!

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

Kim Becker has only been teaching music for 12 years and she's already directed 14 musicals. Having grown up in a K-12 school, she was a perfect fit for the program in Monticello and they are lucky to have her!

A graduate of UW - LaCrosse in Choral Music Education she also got a minor in Theatre, knowing she may be called on to direct in a small school setting. This year's musical is Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID, JR. While the Junior versions are often used by middle schools, Kim finds them a perfect fit for a combined middle school/high school musical since her talent pool is smaller and made up of students who are active in several extracurricular programs at the same time. This way they're still able to get the experience of creating a show without it being too overwhelming.

We know Kim best as a group leader and are happy to report that The Fireside is her students' favorite field trip! This year she brought her church group to A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR BASEMENT, and three school groups to THE SOUND OF MUSIC, THE WIZARD OF OZ, and GREASE. She's already booked for THE MUSIC MAN, too! They're big fans of our new multiple entree choices (not that kids are picky eaters!) and Kim is grateful to be able to provide them with a live theatre experience.

Kim noted that the thing she loves most about teaching are the relationships she's able to make with the students. For some, the music department can be the one place they feel they can be themselves, a safe place to learn and grow, stretch themselves and have fun at the same time.

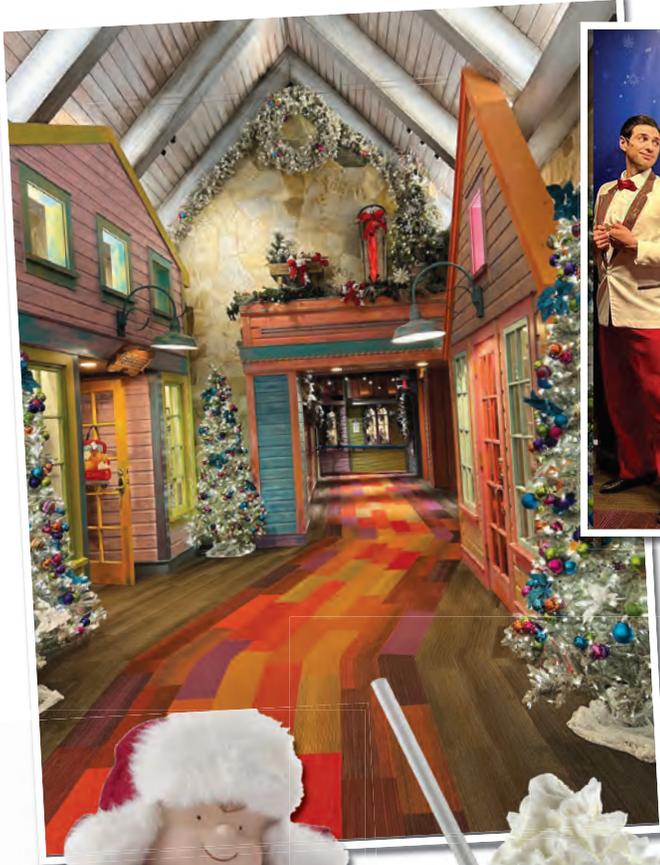
"I feel that every kid needs to have that experience!"

Kim's program offers some fundraising opportunities so students can earn money for their music account. She also makes the trips available for family members to come along. For those who can't afford it she has a fund to make sure everyone gets to attend at least once. "I feel that every kid needs to have that experience," she noted.

Kim is pictured above during her niece's first visit to The Fireside and with the cast of one of her shows. Outside of school, her caring nature is also evident. She has worked as a Hospice volunteer and does respite care for a girl with Downs' Syndrome. She and her boyfriend also have a Siberian Husky that's a retired hospice therapy dog. What a mark she's making on those around her!

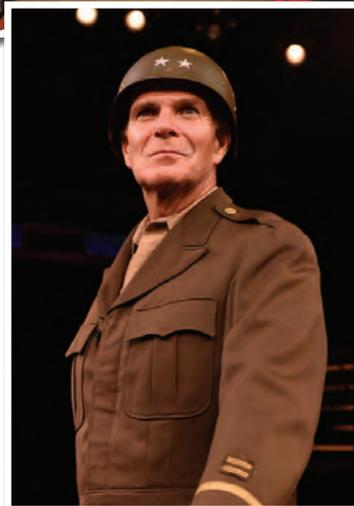
HERE
FOR
YOU!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME WITH US THIS YEAR - WE'RE WRAPPING THINGS UP WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER!



What is it you look forward to most about visiting The Fireside for the holidays? Here are a few things we've been hearing . . .

- The decorations
- The gift shops
- The frosty beverages
- The dinner (& dessert!)
- The show (of course!)
- Time with family
- The memories
- The music
- The hospitality



We are grateful for our talented teams in each department for creating The Fireside Experience for you. And we are grateful for you and your efforts to bring groups both large and small to enjoy the shared experience of live theatre.

Happy Holidays!



MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!

SEE
WHAT'S
COOKING



INSIDE
CHEF MIKE'S
Kitchen

Hi everyone - here we are planning for Spring 2023 - hope winter actually goes that quickly!

THE MUSIC MAN is a fun, All-American show set in small-town Iowa in 1912 and a true classic in every way. We've chosen to feature three classic dinners for you to enjoy before the show. Chicken Piccata and our Barbecued Ribs are two of our all-time favorites. The Cracker Crusted Cod was a big hit in our taste-testing session and I know you'll enjoy it. This can be a good choice if you're attending during Lent on one of our new Friday matinees, if that's a factor for any of your travelers.

You'll also enjoy our Cream of Shiitake Mushroom Soup. Even guests who think they don't usually like mushrooms rave about this soup, it's so rich in flavor! It's a perfect starter to go along with each of these entrees.

Dessert, which you'll definitely want to save room for, is our Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake. A classic for sure and a winner every time!

Please share your feedback on all of our meals. My team and I work very hard to perfect our recipes to appeal to a wide variety of tastes and it's very helpful to know when we've hit the mark or if you'd like to see something else.

From all of us in the kitchen - we hope everything we make you warrants a hearty Yumm!!! Yumm!!!


Executive Chef



FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,
Saturday Evenings* and Sunday MIDDAY*

Cream of Shiitake Mushroom Soup

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Chicken Piccata

Skinless Breast of Chicken dipped in egg, lightly breaded, sautéed to a golden brown, resting on a Velouté Lemon Cream Sauce and garnished with tiny Caper Buds and French-Fried Parsley.

Barbecued Ribs

A Half Rack of our Signature Lean Pork Back Ribs glazed with our special Barbecue Sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone.

Cracker Crusted Cod

Baked Cod, lightly seasoned and topped with Lemon Butter and Cracker Crumbs.

Roasted Yukon Gold Potato Wedges and Honey Glazed Baby Carrots.

Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake

Topped with Fresh Whipped Cream and a Raspberry.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk are included.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with an assortment of Quick Breads and Pastries from our Bakery to enjoy with a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. We'll have two meats at the carving station along with the buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Buttermilk Pancakes, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake plus coffee, tea and milk are included.

***Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.**

Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.

GROUP SALES CORNER



I don't know about you, but I love seeing new shows. While I'm not sure how I've missed this one for so long I can't wait to see THE MUSIC MAN. We're planning a sales team movie night so we're all familiar with the show. Those who already know it are just as excited to see it again!

For personal help with any of your bookings, call me at 800-477-9505 or email groupsales@firesidetheatre.com.



This is another show with wide appeal for all ages - seniors, students, and everyone in between. Coming off a highly successful revival on Broadway starring Hugh Jackman, the show's popularity and name recognition should also help make it easy to sell.



REMEMBER - the biggest changes for our 2023 Season are Wednesday matinees have been moved to Fridays, and meal gratuity is no longer included. The recommended amount for the meal gratuity is \$5.00 - \$7.00 per person. It can either be pre-paid with your final payment or simply left on the table the day of the show. Even if you pre-pay the meal gratuity, the cost of bar drinks and gratuity for that service should be paid at the table as always.

If you've booked for 2023 but were waiting for the reveal of our fall show, now's the time to get your booking in for TITANIC as that is certain to be a popular show. Our Christian Concert Series is in the works and we hope to announce that soon. They will now be scheduled on Wednesdays.

Please give us a call if you have any questions. Best wishes for a happy holiday season, too. I hope to see many of you here. Happy traveling, make it a great day!

 Franki Elmore, Group Sales Lead





1000 PIECE PUZZLE

GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Shop online anytime at www.firesidetheatre.com

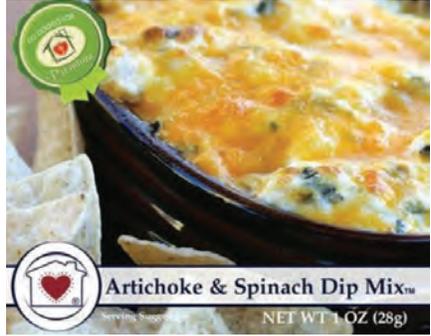
WE'RE PROUD TO FEATURE THESE PRODUCTS FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES!

We love finding new products from American companies that we know you'll love, too. Who doesn't need a good Vince Lombardi quote for their rec room wall! Take a look at these favorites, and be sure to check them out next time you're here. We've found each of these independent businesses to be equally as committed to quality as we are and are proud to feature their work.

*We didn't lose the game;
we just ran out of time.*
— VINCE LOMBARDI —



- Stonewall Kitchen from Maine
- Silver Forest earrings from Vermont
- Country Home Creations from Michigan
- White Mountain Puzzles from Vermont
- North Woods Coffee from Wisconsin
- Oatmeal Greeting Cards from Massachusetts
- Beekman Lotions from New York
- Naked Bee Lotions from Tennessee
- Sawdust City Packer signs from Wisconsin
- Kendrick Home inspirational signs from Iowa
- Abdallah Chocolates from Minnesota
- Allied Springbok Puzzles from Missouri
- Giftworks Plus logo'd items from Wisconsin
- Glow Decor light up canvases from Oregon
- It's Poppin! specialty snacks from Wisconsin
- Knudson Caramels from Minnesota
- LeightWorks crystal jewelry from California
- Mary Lake Thompson towels from California
- P. Graham Dunn home decor from Ohio



CONTACT US TODAY AND SAVE!

CALL 800-477-9505

EMAIL groupsales@firesidetheatre.com

ONLINE FiresideTheatre.com

GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people. Our group ticket price stayed the same for 2023, however gratuity is no longer included. See Franki's Corner for more info on that.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package, for all other shows it's every 21st ticket. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities; just let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.



- Save up to \$16.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for THE MUSIC MAN.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more in 2023 is \$81.50 (\$77.25 tax exempt) per person.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of THE MUSIC MAN from February 23 - March 19, 2023.
- 2023 Premier Group Rate is \$78.33 (\$74.25 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows! For rates on optional premium entrée selections, please call Group Sales.
- 2023 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meal are offered at \$58.29 (\$55.25 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2023 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$71.25 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.